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#### SECTOR 4 — CHART INFORMATION

# SECTOR 4

## WEST COAST OF IRELAND

**Plan.**—This sector describes the W coast of Ireland between Loop Head and Achill Head (53°58'N., 10°15'W.); the sequence of description is from S to N.

### General Remarks

**4.1** The W coast of Ireland between Loop Head and Achill Head, about 88 miles N, is of moderate elevation in its S part, but rises to peaks in excess of 610m in its N part. The Aran Islands, extending across the approaches to Galway Bay, serve as a buffer against the heavy Atlantic swell. Achill Island is the largest island off the Irish coast. A peak on the N side of Achill Island rises to an elevation in excess of 610m.

**Depths—Limitations.**—The depths are fairly regular in the approaches to the coast between Loop Head and Slyn Head (53°24'N., 10°14'W.), but in thick weather a vessel should not proceed in depths of less than 90m unless certain of its position.

**Caution.**—Between Slyn Head and Achill Head in thick weather it is not advisable to proceed to less than 100m unless certain of the position as this depth is found about 2 miles W of Inishshark Island.

Oil platforms and exploration vessels may be encountered off the W coast of Ireland.

### Off-lying Islands and Dangers

**4.2 The Aran Islands** (53°07'N., 9°40'W.) form an island chain across the approach to Galway Bay to which they serve as a barrier to the Atlantic swell.

Inishmore Island the largest of the islands, appears from seaward to be bordered by vertical cliffs. At the E end the land slopes from its summit in a succession of abrupt ledges and terraces. The W part of the island rises to an elevation of 104m. The central and largest part of the island is also the highest with an elevation of 120m. The conspicuous ruin of an old lighthouse stands on the summit with an ancient fort located close E of it.

A low neck of land separates the central part of the island from the W part, which, from a distance, gives the impression of Inishmore being two islands.

Portmury indents the N shore of Inishmore Island with its head in the depression formed by the central and NW parts of the island. The inlet affords anchorage for small vessels in depths of 7m near the head. It can be used in fine weather, but a swell sets in.

Straw Island, 11m high, is located about 0.5 mile N of the NE extremity of Inishmore. A light is shown from the island.

**Killeany Bay** (53°07'N., 9°39'W.) is entered between Straw Island and Carrickadda Point 1 mile WNW. It is available to vessels of moderate draft, but during NW gales a heavy swell sets in. The entrance is obstructed by Bar of Aran, a narrow ridge with a depth of about 3.4m extending from Carrickadda

Point. The entrance channel between the bar and the foul ground extending from Straw Island has a least depth of 7.3m in the fairway, increasing to 9.1m a short distance within, then decreasing gradually to the shore.

Vessels with drafts of 3.7 to 5.5m should anchor 0.7 mile W of Straw Island in a depth of 8.2m with Carrickadda Point bearing 348° and the old fort on the summit of Inishmore bearing 285°.

**Brannok Islands** (53°09'N., 9°51'W.), a group of five islets, 15m high, lies 0.5 mile W of the W extremity of Inishmore.

**Rock Island** (Eeragh) (53°09'N., 9°51'W.), the most W of the Aran Islands, lies 1 mile W of the W extremity of Inishmore. A main light is shown from a prominent tower, 31m high, standing on the island.

**Inishmaan Island** (53°05'N., 9°35'W.), 80m high, lies about 2 miles SE of the E extremity of Inishmore. Vertical cliffs, 37m high, stand at the SW side of the island. A conspicuous ancient fort stands on the summit of the island.

**Inisheer Island** (53°03'N., 9°32'W.), the most E of the Aran Islands, lies about 2 miles SE of Inishmaan Island and rises to an elevation of 59m. A main light is shown from a prominent tower, 34m high, standing at the SE extremity of the island. A floating marine farm has been established about 1 mile N of Trawkeera point, the E point of Inisheer.

Finnis Rock lies at the E extremity of foul ground extending about 0.8 mile E from Inisheer and is marked by a lighted buoy.

**Gregory Sound** (53°05'N., 9°37'W.), 1 mile wide at its narrowest part, is deep and separates Inishmaan Island from Inishmore Island. It is used by fishing vessels.

Foul Sound, with a navigable channel 1 mile wide, is deep and separates Inisheer Island from Inishmaan Island.

The currents in the vicinity of the Aran Islands are negligible except those through Gregory Sound and Foul Sound. The currents in both sounds follow the directions of the channels at a velocity of 1.5 knots at springs.

**Inishshark Island** (53°37'N., 10°17'W.) rugged and precipitous, is the outermost island of a group lying about 4 miles NW of **Cleggan Point** (53°34'N., 10°08'W.). Its W side is deeply indented with fissures. Kimmeeen Rocks lie about 0.5 mile W of the SW extremity of the island. An islet, 17m high, lies on the rocks and shoals which extend about 1 mile S from the SE shore of the island. Mweemore, a rock with a depth of 7.6m, lies about 1.5 miles S of the island and is the S most danger.

**Inishbofin** (53°37'N., 10°13'W.) lies with its W end about 0.5 mile E of Inishshark. The island rises to three peaks of almost equal elevation, the highest rising to 85m near the W end. Rusheen Bay indents the E side of the island and

anchorage can be taken by small vessels in 5.5m near the head. A small boat harbor is situated on the S side of the island.

Inishlyon, 39m high, lies about 0.5 mile E of the SE end of Inishbofin. A light is shown from a structure standing at the E extremity of the island.

Lecky Rocks, 7m high, lie about 1.5 miles E of Inishlyon Light.

Davillaun, 24m high, with a rock which breaks located about 0.5 mile E, lies 1.2 miles NE of Inishbofin Light.

Carrickmahoy, a rock which breaks heavily at times, lies about 0.7 mile S of Inishbofin Light and is the most dangerous rock in the channel between the islands and the mainland SE.

The currents in the channel between Inishbofin and the mainland set in the direction of the channel. The current setting NE begins about 3 hours 30 minutes before HW at Galway; the opposite current begins about 2 hours 45 minutes after HW at Galway. The spring velocity in both directions is about 1.5 knots, but greater off the E end of Inishlyon.

**Inishturk** (53°42'N., 10°06'W.) lies about 5 miles NE of Inishbofin. The summit rises to an elevation of 187m and has a prominent ruined tower standing on it. The steep and rocky coasts are bordered by cliffs which attain an elevation of about 132m on the W side.

Anchorage can be taken in a bay on the E side of the island, protected from W winds. The best berth lies about midway between the entrance points in 9.1 to 10.9m, good holding ground. Small vessels may anchor farther in.

Caher Island, about 1.5 miles E of Inishturk, has a somewhat peaked summit, 57m high; its NW extremity terminates in a bold cliff about the same height. Ballybeg, 17m high, lies close SW of the island. The best landing is at Caher Point, the SE extremity of the island. Portatemple, close NW, is a small sandy cove.

Inishdalla, 22m high, lies about 1.5 miles SE of the SE end of Inishturk. The small island is grassy and has a drying rock lying close SW of it.

**Clare Island** (53°48'N., 10°00'W.), the most imposing feature in the approach to Clew Bay, lies in the middle of the entrance about 4 miles N of Caher Island; its summit, 459m high, rises from the sheer cliffs along its NW side. Viewed from this direction it presents the appearance of a tabular mountain, dipping slightly W and terminating in a bluff point with the ruins of a tower standing on it. The mountain descends to the N extremity of the island on which stands a disused light tower. Calliaghcrom Rock lies about 0.5 mile N of the N extremity of the island. Two Fathom Rock, over which the sea breaks heavily in bad weather, lies 0.5 mile NNW of the NW extremity of the island.

Anchorage can be taken by small vessels in about 5m in a sandy bay on the SE side of Clare Island. The bay is exposed to S winds and the holding ground is poor.

Large vessels can anchor temporarily in the bay between Kinnacorra Point, the E extremity, and the N extremity of Clare Island, in a depth of 18m, mud.

**4.3** Between Loop Head and **Cape Cancregga** (52°56'N., 9°28'W.), the S entrance point of Galway Bay, the coast is of moderate elevation, but exposed to the full force of the Atlantic swell. There is no safe anchorage throughout its entire extent.

In thick weather, a vessel should not approach within a depth of 100m.

Mt. Cahercroghaun Hill, 79m high, rises about 1.7 miles NE of Loop Head and provides a good landmark.

Truskieve Point lies in the position 52°38'N, 9°46'W. The ruins of a castle on a hill about 0.8 mile E of the point are easily identified.

**Bishop's Island** (52°40'N., 9°42'W.), precipitous on all sides and high, has two old dome-shaped buildings standing on its summit.

Moore Bay (Kilkee Bay), about 12 miles NE of Loop Head, is open to the NW, but protected by Duggerna Rocks which extend from the S shore. Black Rocks, steep-to and drying, lie farther N with some detached rocks in between. Drying reefs fringe the shores and a sandy flat extends from the head of the bay.

The narrow entrance channel into the bay lies between the above rocks and a drying rock off the N entrance point. Depths decrease from 10.9 to 12.8m in the entrance to 5.5m about 0.8 mile farther in. Only vessels with local knowledge should attempt to enter.

Leamconor Point lies in the position 52°44'N, 9°37'W. Ballad Tower stands on the cliffs E of the point and is conspicuous from the offing.

**Mal Bay** (52°50'N., 9°31'W.), entered between Killard Point and Cape Cancregga, about 6 miles NNE, is exposed to the W and always subject to a heavy swell. Doonbeg Bay, in the S part of Mal Bay, is encumbered by rocks and open to the N, but during the summer affords temporary anchorage to fishing vessels.

Lurga Point lies in the position 52°48'N, 9°29'W. Mutton Island, with the ruins of a tower on its W end, lies at the outer edge of foul ground extending W from Lurga Point. During SW gales, small vessels can take temporary anchorage in 4.5m about midway between the pier on Lurga Point and a drying rock to the N.

**Slieve Callan** (52°50'N., 9°16'W.) rises to an elevation of 386m and is a conspicuous landmark.

Liscannor Bay indents the coast between **Ship Point** (52°53'N., 9°26'W.) and Cape Cancregga to the NNW and is exposed to the full force of the Atlantic swell. No shelter is provided with onshore winds. With offshore winds, small vessels can take temporary anchorage in 5.5m off the village on the N side of the bay.

Between Loop Head and Moore Bay the currents follow the direction of the coast. The spring velocity in both directions is about 1 knot.

The offshore currents, about 6 miles NNE of Loop Head, set E and SW at a velocity of 0.5 knot.

The offshore currents about 8 miles WSW of Cape Cancregga set N and SW at a velocity of about 0.3 knot.

## Galway Bay

**4.4** Galway Bay may be considered as those waters within Cape Cancregga and Golam Head about 21 miles NW. Although possessing several snug inlets available for small

vessels, the bay affords no sheltered anchorage for vessels of deep-draft during W winds.

The Aran Islands (previously described) serve as a barrier against the heavy swell of the ocean and protect the bay.

The principal approaches are through South Sound, between the SE end of Aran Islands and the mainland to the E, or through North Sound, between the NW end of Aran Islands and the mainland to the N.

**Tides—Currents.**—The currents are not strong in Galway Bay. The directions of the currents, and the times at which they begin, are stated to depend to a great extent on the wind. The sea level is also considerably affected by the wind.

The flood begins in North and South Sounds and Galway Bay approximately 5 hours 20 minutes before HW at Galway. The spring velocity in both directions in South Sound is about 1 knot, and less in North Sound. Over Inverine Bank, the velocity does not exceed 1 knot at springs.

**Directions.**—A vessel bound for Galway may enter the bay by any of the passages between the Aran Islands. During heavy weather, North and South Sounds are preferred, but the other passages are available. Care should be taken to avoid Finnis Rock if South Sound is used, and Brocklinmore Bank if North Sound is used.

From a position about 3 miles W of Tearaght Island (52°05'N., 10°40'W.), a course of 039° over a distance of 85 miles leads to a position about 1.5 miles NW of Black Head. Then a course of 063° for a distance of 7.2 miles leads to the lighted whistle buoy moored off the W end of Margaretta Shoal. This track passes over a least charted depth of 14.6m.

From a position about 5 miles WSW of Slyne Head (53°24'N., 10°14'W.), a course of 126° for a distance of 20 miles leads to a position about 3 miles NW of Rock Island. Then a course of 063° for a distance of 7.2 miles leads to the lighted whistle buoy moored off the W end of Margaretta Shoal. This track passes over a least charted depth of 14.6m.

**4.5 Hag's Head** (52°57'N., 9°23'W.) is situated 1 mile N of Cape Cancregga. A conspicuous tower stands on the head. The cliffs of Moher are a prominent feature of the coast in the vicinity NE of Hag's Head. A prominent tower in ruins stands on the shore about 2 miles NE of Hag's Head and a remarkable pillar rock, 61m high, stands close to the coast below it.

**Doolin Point** (53°01'N., 9°24'W.) is located about 4.7 miles NE of Hag's Head. Crab Island, 5m high and bordered by foul ground, lies close off the point. A pier for small craft is located close SE of the point leeward of the island.

A prominent castle in ruins stands about 1.2 miles SE of Doolin Point.

Murrough River flows into the bay in the position 53°07'N, 9°17'W. With offshore winds, small vessels can anchor in 9.1m about 0.3 mile offshore abreast some sandhills at the mouth of the river.

**Black Head** (53°09'N., 9°16'W.) is a bold prominent headland which rises steeply to Doughbranneen, a conspicuous hill, 312m high, about 1 mile SSE. A light is shown from a tower, 20m high, standing on the headland.

A conspicuous castle is situated about 2.3 miles SE of the headland.

Anchorage can be taken in 10.9 to 12.8m with the castle bearing 148° and Black Head bearing less than 277°. Small vessels can anchor farther in, but should bear in mind that a shift of wind to the N may make the anchorage untenable.

The S side of the bay extends about 12 miles E to the head. The shore is indented with several shallow inlets and bays which dry and are encumbered with sandbanks. The S side of the bay is used by boats and small craft.

**4.6 Golam Head** (53°14'N., 9°46'W.), the N entrance point of Galway Bay, is the W extremity of a small islet with the conspicuous ruins of a tower on its summit.

During stormy weather, seas break heavily on the off-lying rocks and shoals in the vicinity of Golam Head and over the banks extending N from Inishmore. The coast between Golam Head and Galway is mostly low-lying and featureless, but a number of inland heights may be identified.

Greatman's Bay, about 5 miles E of Golam Head, is entered between **Trabaan Point** (53°14'N., 9°39'W.) and Keeraun Point, nearly 1.2 miles E. The currents in the entrance and in the narrows to the N attain a velocity of about 2 knots in both directions at springs. Small vessels with local knowledge can anchor about 2 miles within the entrance, but it should not be attempted by those without local knowledge.

Cashla Bay, about 2 miles E of Greatman's Bay, is entered between Killeen Point and Cashla Point about 1.2 miles E. The bay extends for about 3 miles N and is easy of access. It provides secure anchorage for small vessels in all winds and sea. Larger vessels can anchor in the outer part of the bay, but it is exposed to S and SW winds.

A rock fringed by foul ground lies in the center of the outer approach and is marked by a beacon. The main entrance channel lies W of the rock and is indicated by a direction light and a lighted buoy. The channel is about 0.2 mile wide with depths of 14m.

Rossaveel is a small fishing harbor situated on the NE side of the bay.

Anchorage can be taken in depths of 9.1 to 10.9m abreast of the tower on the E side of the bay, about 1 mile above **Cashla Point** (53°14'N., 9°33'W.).

Small vessels can anchor in a depth of 5.5m in the upper part of the bay, but caution is necessary to avoid a drying rock in the fairway above the narrows.

**Caution.**—A submarine cable which is shown on the chart, lies between the entrance of Cashla Bay and the Aran Islands.

**Cruckdough** (53°17'N., 9°29'W.), a 157m high hill, rises about 4 miles NE of Cashla Point and is conspicuous from the offing.

**Mutton Island** (53°15'N., 9°03'W.), low and rocky, lies at the outer end of a rocky flat extending from the N shore; the island and the flat form the W side of Galway Outer Harbour. A conspicuous disused light tower, 10m high, stands near the center of the island.

**Hare Islet** (53°15'N., 9°01'W.), low and cliffy on its W side, lies on the E side of the entrance of Galway.

**Galway (53°16'N., 9°03'W.)**

World Port Index No. 34060

**4.7** The port of Galway is located at the head of Galway Bay, in a shallow inlet, just within the mouth of the River Corrib. The port consists of a town and an inner and outer harbor with berthing facilities in the former. Galway Dock, the inner harbor, is a wet dock controlled by a tide gate. The port provides services to the oil and gas exploration industry.

**Tides—Currents.**—Spring tides rise 5.1m and neap tides rise 3.6m.

**Depths—Limitations.**—The dredged channel leading from the entrance of the outer harbor between Mutton and Hare Islands up to the inner harbor is about 79m wide with a charted depth of 3.6m.

The largest vessels can enter the roadstead and lie at anchor there.

Entry into the harbor is restricted to 2 hours before HW until HW only. The maximum size vessel that can enter is governed by the depth on the sill of 8.5m at springs and 7.3m at neaps. The width of the dock gates is 19.8m and the length of the turning area is 146m.

Vessels of up to 10,000 dwt with lengths of 137m and drafts of up to 7.9m at springs and 6.7m at neaps, have been accommodated in the harbor.

**Aspect.**—A directional light shown from a tower, 10m high, stands about 0.8 mile E of Mutton Island and indicates, along with lighted buoys, the fairway leading from seaward between the dangers. When vessels have approached to within 0.2 mile of the tower, a direction light standing on the shore about 0.5 mile E of the dock, indicates a fairway which passes to the NW of the light and leads for a short distance to the outer end of a dredged channel to Galway Dock. The dredged channel to the dock entrance is indicated by a range.

A conspicuous radio mast, 93m high, stands at the head of the bay about 2.7 miles ESE of the dock entrance. A conspicuous large round ore silo stands close NE of the dock entrance. A prominent church spire with illuminated clock face stands close NW of Galway dock and the prominent dome of the cathedral stands close NW of the spire.

**Pilotage.**—Pilots are stationed at Inisheer and Killeany Bay in the Aran Islands and will board when pilotage signals are displayed. Pilotage is not compulsory from the Aran Islands to the roadstead, but is compulsory from the roadstead into the inner harbor. Harbor pilots board in the roadstead, about 0.5 mile SSW of Mutton Island tower, 3 hours before until HW. Vessels arriving at other times should anchor SW of Mutton Island.

Vessel's ETA should be forwarded not less than 24 hours prior to arrival, stating whether outer or inner pilots are being requested. ETA cables may be sent to agents through Valentia Coast Radio or Malin Head. VHF channel 16 may be used.

**Anchorage.**—Small vessels usually anchor in 5.8m in the roadstead E of Mutton Island, with the SE extremity of that island in range 232° with Black Head and with the light on the head of Nimmo's Pier in range 347° with the left hand edge of the conspicuous ore silo. Heavy gales from W or SW raise an

uneasy sea in the outer parts of the anchorage, but the holding ground is excellent.

Vessels of moderate or deep draft should anchor S of Mutton Island in 9.1 to 10.9m. The recommended anchorage is 0.6 mile SSW of Mutton Island on the alignment, 016°, of the tower and a college, 1.5 miles NNE. During W or SW gales a vessel is liable to drag anchor.

**Caution.**—On a falling tide, particularly at springs, or after prolonged rainfall, there may be a strong E set across the mouth of the dock.

**4.8** Between Golam Head and Slyne Head about 20 miles WNW, the coast no longer retains the bold features that distinguish the terrain to the S of Galway Bay. It is fronted by numerous off-lying dangers with intricate channels leading through them to the bays and inlets which indent the shore. Some of the bays and inlets afford secure anchorage, but the dangers in the approaches are so numerous that they are seldom frequented and should not be attempted without local knowledge.

**Caution.**—In thick weather, a vessel should approach this part of the coast with caution unless certain of its position. Some dangers to navigation lie as far as 6 miles offshore.

**Mount Errisbeg** (53°24'N., 9°57'W.), about 12 miles NNW of Golam Head, serves as an unmistakable landmark in approaching this coast. The highest of several peaks rising from the ridge forming the mountain, it attains an elevation of about 296m.

**Cashel Hill** (53°26'N., 9°48'W.), 307m high and conspicuous, rises at the head of a bay about 6 miles ENE of Mount Errisbeg.

**Knockmorden Range** (53°23'N., 9°43'W.), rising to a peak, 350m high, about 4.5 miles SE of Cashel Hill, is easily identified when viewed from S.

Kilkieran Bay is entered between **Dinish Island** (53°15'N., 9°45'W.) and Birmore Island, about 1.2 miles WNW. Anchorage can be taken SE of **Kilkieran Cove** (53°19'N., 9°44'W.) on the W side of the bay, about 3.8 miles N of Dinish Island. This anchorage has sufficient depths for large vessels, but entry is restricted to vessels with a draft of less than 4.8m by several rocky patches having depths of 5.5 to 9m in the fairway. Local knowledge is advisable.

**Casheen Bay** (53°16'N., 9°44'W.), E of Dinish Island, has sufficient depths for vessels having drafts of up to 10m, is well sheltered, and easy of access. Anchorage can be taken in 12.8 to 14.6m with a large boulder close off the N end of Dinish Island in range 278° with the S end of Birmore Island, and the cottage on the S end of **Illauneeragh** (Eragh) (53°17'N., 9°44'W.) in range 021° with a large boulder on the summit of the same island.

**Directions.**—The best approach to Kilkieran Bay lies between Golam Head and Eagle Rock. Having cleared Eagle Rock, Cashel Hill should be steered for on a course of 357° and open E of Birmore Island which leads W of Dinish Shoals. When the S extremity of Illauneeragh is in range 066° with **Lettermore Hill** (58°18'N., 9°40'W.), course should be altered to this bearing which leads NW of Dinish Shoals. Steer to pass not less than 0.1 mile N of Dinish Point, which is fairly steep-to, and anchor in Casheen Bay as previously directed.

**Skerdmore** (53°15'N., 10°00'W.), about 8.7 miles WNW of Golam Head, is the largest and outermost rock of an extensive group of rocks and shoals. It is 18m in elevation and easily identified.

Bertraghboy Bay, about 8 miles NE of Skerdmore, provides secure shelter for the largest vessels, but the approach is so encumbered by unmarked dangers that it would be inadvisable to approach it except under very favorable circumstances or with local knowledge.

Croaghnaakeela Island, which is covered with brushwood, lies in the approaches to Bertraghboy Bay, about 4.5 miles NNE of Skerdmore. The island is easy to identify and a light is shown from a structure standing on its SE side.

**Slyne Head** (53°24'N., 10°14'W.) is the W extremity of Illaunamid, the outermost island of a chain that extends about 2 miles WSW from the coast. A main light, with a racon, is shown from a conspicuous tower, 24m high, standing on the island. The prominent ruins of a disused lighthouse stand close S of the light.

The currents off Slyne Head set N and SE along the coast and S to Loop Head. Off Slyne Head and in the channels between the islands to the E the current setting N begins about 3 hours 30 minutes before HW at Galway and in the opposite direction about 3 hours after HW at Galway. In the channels and close off the head, the spring velocity in both directions is about 3 to 4 knots. Farther offshore these velocities decrease rapidly and become weak about 2 to 3 miles from the head.

**4.9 Barret Shoals** (53°26'N., 10°16'W.) lies about 2.5 miles NNW of Slyne Head. In fine weather, the shoals may be distinguished by tide-rips over them. During gales, heavy seas break over them.

**Aughrus Point** (53°33'N., 10°12'W.) lies about 8.5 miles N of Slyne Head. The coast between is fronted by numerous rocks and shoals.

The Twelve Pins is a mountain chain which stretches from about 3 miles N of Galway to a summit 16 miles ENE of Slyne Head. Ben Baun, the summit, is 726m high and conspicuous from seaward. Diamond Hill, 441m high, stands 3.5 miles WNW of Ben Baun and is prominent.

Mannin Bay is entered between **Knock Point** (53°27'N., 10°08'W.) and Errislannan (Errislannan) Point, about 1.7 miles NE, and is exposed to the prevailing sea and swell. Small vessels can anchor SE of Knock Point in 4.5m when the wind is W of NW.

**Clifden Bay** (53°29'N., 10°04'W.) is entered between Errislannan Point and Fahy Point to the N. Clifden Bay is separated from Mannin Bay by a peninsula, which at a distance, blends in with the high land to the N making it difficult to distinguish the entrance. Well sheltered anchorage is provided from all winds and seas with good holding ground.

Doolick Rock, which dries, lies at the outer edge of the foul ground which extends about 1 mile W from Errislannan Point. Illaunrush, a small islet, lies at the inner end of this foul ground.

**Tides—Currents.**—The current in Clifden Bay probably begins to flood about 5 hours before HW at Galway and the ebb begins about 1 hour after HW at Galway. The spring velocity of the ebb is 1.5 knots.

**Depths—Limitations.**—A detached 3.4m patch lies in the fairway, about 0.5 mile SE of Fahy Point.

A channel having a least depth of 4m crosses the bar, which extends across the bay N of Aspen Leaf Point.

**Aspect.**—A beacon stands on Fishing Point, about 0.7 mile NE of Errislannan Point. Aspen Leaf Point, which can be identified by the cliff on its SE side, lies about 0.2 mile SE of Fishing Point.

**Anchorage.**—Anchorage can be taken in 6.4 to 10.9m in the outer part of the bay by anchoring on the entrance range.

Vessels able to cross the bar can anchor in 10m, excellent holding ground, in the inner part of the bay with Clifden Castle (53°29'N., 10°04'W.) bearing 035°.

**Directions.**—To cross the bar after passing the 3.4m shoal, the alignment, 289° astern, of Shindilla, the SE end of Ardmore Island and Fahy Point leads over the bar in a least depth of 4m.

Clifden Castle and the beacon on Fishing Point, in range 080°, leads to the entrance.

**High Island** (53°33'N., 10°15'W.), with several old buildings on its slopes, lies about 2 miles W of Aughrus Point and rises to an elevation of 59m.

**Friar Island** (53°33'N., 10°14'W.), 23m high, lies about 0.8 mile E of High Island. Friar Island Sound, a narrow passage with a depth of 9.4m at its S end, passes between Friar Island and a group of drying rocks to the E. The currents set very strongly through this sound.

**4.10 Cleggan Bay** (53°34'N., 10°08'W.), between Aughrus and Cleggan promontories, is easy of access and partially protected from the prevailing swell by the islands of Inishshark and Inishbofin. Fairly good shelter is provided, especially during the summer.

**Tides—Currents.**—The flood current setting into the bay begins about 5 hours before HW at Galway and the ebb begins about 1 hour after HW. The currents are usually weak.

The islands NW of Cleggan Bay have been previously described with off-lying dangers.

**Anchorage.**—Anchorage can be taken in 9.1 to 18.3m in the outer part of the bay or in 7.3m abreast a quay on the S shore, about 0.5 mile from the head of the bay.

**Directions.**—From W, the line of bearing 085°, of the summit, 353m high, of **Tully Mountain** (53°35'N., 10°00'W.), located 4.5 miles E of Cleggan Point and open N of that point, passes close N of the dangers off the W side of the entrance to Cleggan Bay. When Roeillaun bears about 200°, a vessels may steer for the head of the bay and anchor according to draft.

**Ballynakill Harbour** (53°35'N., 10°02'W.) is entered between Cleggan Point and Rinvyle Point, about 3.5 miles NE; it provides good shelter in moderate depths.

**Tides—Currents.**—The currents in the harbor flood and ebb at about the same time as the currents in Cleggan Bay. The currents are generally weak, but in the anchorage of Ross Point, near the head of the harbor, the spring velocity in both directions may be as much as 2 knots.

**Depths—Limitations.**—The S shore E of Cleggan Point is steep-to and rises to bare high rocky cliffs.

The inner part of the harbor, entered between Letterbeg Point, about 1.5 miles SSE of Rinvyle Point, and the S shore to

the SW, is obstructed by a chain of islets and rocks which stretch across the entrance.

Braadillaun, a small low islet, lies close W of Letterbeg Point. Carricklaghan, an above-water rock, and Mullaghadrina, a drying rock, lie within 0.5 mile W of the same point. Detached depths of less than 9.1m lie within 0.3 mile farther W.

Carrigeen South, a low rock, lies about 1 mile SW of Letterbeg Point.

Freaghillaun South, the largest and highest island in the harbor, lies about 0.5 mile SSW of Letterbeg Point. The preferred channel into the inner harbor passes N of the island. The narrow channel S of the island is obstructed in mid-channel by an islet.

Ship Rock, which dries, lies close off the N shore, about 0.8 mile SE of Letterbeg Point. Carrigeen Rocks lie near the middle of the harbor, about 0.4 mile farther SE. A clear channel, with depths of 10.9 to 14.6m, leads S of these rocks, but shoals rapidly as the head of the bay is approached. The N channel, with depths of 5.2 to 11.9m, leads through a narrow gut to Derryinver Bay.

**Anchorage.**—Vessels with drafts of not more than 4.6m can anchor in 9.1m in the channel S of Carrigeen Rocks, but the swinging room is limited. Small vessels may anchor close to the E end of Freaghillaun South.

**Directions.**—Vessels of suitable draft may proceed to Ross Point taking care to keep Glassillaun open N of a rocky islet, 3.7m high. The course passes N of a shallow spit extending 0.1 mile NE from the point 0.3 mile N of Ross Point. When on the alignment, 315°, of the E Carrigeen Rock and the W point of Braadillaun, the track turns SE until on the line of bearing 358°, astern, of Ardagh Rocks, which leads to the anchorage NE of Ross Point.

**4.11** Between Rinville Point and Tonakeera Point, about 5.5 miles NE, the coast is indented by Killary Bay and Little Killary Bay and fronted by numerous off-lying dangers which obstruct the approaches. There are, however, good passages between them, the principal fairway to Killary Bay being at least 1 mile wide and deep. At night or in thick weather those without local knowledge should approach the harbor with caution.

The ruins of a castle stand about 0.7 mile E of Rinville Point, and Blake Point lies about the same distance farther E. Tully Point, 1 mile farther E, has a church about 0.5 mile SW of it.

Culfin Point lies 2.7 miles ENE of Tully Point. Illaunmore, two rocky islets, lie at the outer end of a sandy spit which extends from the shore about 0.5 mile E of Culfin Point. Mweelaun, an above-water rock with foul ground off its E and W ends, lies close N of the islets.

Little Killary Bay, entered between Illaunmore and Carricklea, a point about 0.5 mile NE, provides excellent shelter for vessels able to enter. The anchorage is confined, and a short scope of chain or a taut moor must be used, but the holding ground is excellent.

Carricklass, two small islets, lie in the middle of the entrance, S of the N entrance point. These islets, together with Mweelaun, may be passed on either side. The channel N of the

islets has a depth of 11.9m and the channel S of them a depth of 6.4m.

Carricklea, an above-water rock, lies on the E end of a sunken ledge close W of the N entrance point.

Anchorage can be taken in 12.8m, mud, just above Carricklass, but with strong winds blowing directly into the bay it is better to proceed farther in.

**4.12 Killary Harbour** (53°37'N., 9°50'W.), a narrow deep inlet flanked by high mountains, is easy of access and provides sheltered anchorage for all classes of vessels.

**Tides—Currents.**—The flood current setting into the bay probably begins about 5 hours before HW at Galway and the ebb about 1 hour after HW at Galway. The velocity in the entrance and up to 4.5 miles within the bay does not exceed 0.5 knot. As the entrance of the river at the head of the bay is approached the velocity increases to 1.5 knots.

**Depths—Limitations.**—The channel between Inishbarna and the N shore is about 0.2 mile wide with depths of 26 to 40m decreasing regularly toward the head of the bay.

**Aspect.**—Mweelrea (Muilrea), the highest of the numerous mountains bordering the sides of the bay, is square and rises to an elevation of 815m on the N side, about 1.7 miles within the entrance.

Doonee Islet, reef fringed and marked by a white beacon, lies on the S side of the entrance about 0.3 mile NW of Carricklea. A similar beacon stands on Inishbarna, an island about 0.2 mile E of Doonee Islet.

**Black Rocks** (53°38'N., 9°55'W.), a group of low above-water rocks, together with Doonee Island E of them, lie on the N side of the entrance within 0.5 mile W of the N entrance point.

Between Doonee Island and a point on the N shore about 0.5 mile E, three pinnacle rocks with depths of 4.9 to 5.2m lie within 90m of the shore. With few exceptions, the rest of the harbor is fringed by narrow, steep-to banks of rocks and stones.

**Pilotage.**—There are no regular pilots for Killary Harbour, however local fisherman may be engaged. The harbor should not be approached without local knowledge.

**Anchorage.**—Deep draft vessels can anchor up to 4 miles above the entrance and smaller vessels can anchor within 1 mile of the head of the bay.

Excellent anchorage can be taken in 8.2 to 12.8m off Bundorragha Village, on the N shore, about 5 miles within the bay. Swinging space is limited for long vessels, but ample room is available off Dernasliggaun about 1 mile to the W.

**Directions.**—The approach from W, between the islands of Inishbofin and Inishturk may be easily identified. There are no known dangers until the meridian of Inishdalla (53°41'N., 10°04'W.) has been reached. **Pollock Shoal** (53°40'N., 10°02'W.), an isolated danger, lies 6 miles WNW of the entrance to Killary Harbour. There are several islets and rocks fronting the coast E of Rinville Point on the S side and to the N there are detached groups of rocks lying W and S of Tonakeera Point. There are passages between these dangers, the center and main channel being amply wide and deep enough in the fairway at any state of the tide for vessels of moderate size.

The alignment, 321° astern, of the SE side of Inishdalla and the tower on Inishturk, passes SW of Pollock Shoal. Having

passed Pollock Shoal, the alignment, 112°, of the S fall of Aillachoppal and the sharp peak of Leenaun leads toward the center passage, passing N of Illaunananima and Crump Island and between O'Malley Breaker, known locally as Grania Waile, and Carrickgaddy Rocks.

**Caution.**—Salmon cages may be encountered on either side of Killary Bay between 0.1 and 0.5 mile within its entrance. They are marked by flashing lights. Another area of mariculture is situated off the S shore, further within the harbor, at Derrynacleigh.

**Devlin Hill** (53°42'N., 9°53'W.) rises to a 269m peak in the position 53°42'N., 9°50' W.; it is conspicuous from the offing. Between the hill and Roonah Head, the coast decreases in elevation and nowhere exceeds a height of 43m.

**Roonah Head** (53°46'N., 9°54'W.), a 38m high bluff head, is fronted by foul ground which extends about 1.5 miles W. Meemore, a rock which dries only at very LWS, lies near the outer edge of this foul ground and frequently breaks. Mweelaun, a small rocky islet, 19m high, stands 3.2 miles W of the point. Vessels may pass safely between Mweelaun and Meemore, but without local knowledge, it is dangerous to attempt to pass E of Meemore.

**4.13 Clew Bay** (53°50'N., 9°45'W.) is entered between Roonah Head and Achillbeg Island, about 5.7 miles NNW. The bay is spacious, easy of access with moderate depths, and remarkable for the number of small islets that occupy its E portion. Well-sheltered anchorage can be taken between some of these islets by shallow draft vessels. Intricate channels lead through these islets to the towns of Newport and Westport. There is no secure anchorage in the outer part of the bay.

**Clare Island** (53°48'N., 10°00'W.) lies in the middle of the entrance to Clew Bay and shelters it somewhat from heavy Atlantic swells. The island has been previously described with off-lying dangers.

**Tides—Currents.**—Outside Clew Bay the velocity of the currents rarely exceed 1.2 knots, but in the channels on either side of Clare Island the spring velocity is 1.5 knots. E of Clare Island the velocity is about 1.3 knots, but increases to 2 knots off the entrance channel to Westport. The current setting N outside Clew Bay sets towards the SW side of Achill Island and then sets NW along that coast. The tendency of both currents is to set towards the S side of Achill Island. The ebb invariably sets along its SW side.

The current between Inishturk and the mainland probably sets NE when the current outside sets N. The current setting S of Clare Island causes an eddy on the NE side of the island while the current outside sets toward and along the SW side of Achill Island. The greater part of the ebb from Clew Bay sets through the channel N of Clare Island and along the coast of Achill Island and forms an eddy effect to the main current setting S around Achill Head.

The current setting N between Inishbofin and Achill Head begins about 3 hours 20 minutes before HW at Galway and the opposite current about 3 hours after HW at Galway.

The flood currents in the channels N and S of Clare Island begin about 5 hours 30 minutes before HW at Galway and the ebb begins about 45 minutes after HW at that place. During the

first 2 hours of the flood, the current outside sets N, but during the remainder of the flood, the set is S. Similarly, during the first 2 hours 30 minutes of the ebb in the channels, the current outside sets S, but during the remainder of the ebb, the set is N.

Between Inishbofin and Achill Head, and E to Clare Island, the currents are probably weak and vary in velocity and direction according to the offshore currents and the currents through the channels. The above data should be used with caution until a more complete survey is made.

**Depths—Limitations.**—Depths in the vicinity of Clew Bay are very irregular. Because of these irregularities, soundings are of little value in ascertaining the position at night or in thick weather. The principal channel leading into Clew Bay is 2 miles wide and passes N of Clare Island.

**Aspect.—Old Head** (53°47'N., 9°46'W.) lies on the S side of the bay, about 4.8 miles ENE of Roonah Point. Some clay cliffs, backed by a high hill, rise about midway between the point and the head. Vessels should not proceed E of Old Head unless there is a pilot on board.

The Northern Shore, between Achillbeg Island and Moynish More, an island about 7.5 miles ENE, has a barren appearance.

The S side of the bay between Old Head and Curraghmore Point, about 4 miles E, is broken by low detached cliffs. A conspicuous church about 8.7 miles WSW of the above point is visible from most parts of the bay.

A narrow ridge, fringed by drying ledges and flats, extends about 1 mile NNE from Curraghmore Point and terminates at Bartragh Sandhills. A chain of islets, fronted by several dangerous shoals on their W sides, extends N from these sandhills to the opposite side of the bay.

The following islets are conspicuous from the bay: Moynish More, with Roeillaun, about 0.8 mile SE, lying near the N shore, about 6 miles NNW of Curraghmore Point; Inishoo, marking the entrance of the channel to Newport; Inishgort, from which a light is shown; and Dorinish More, near the S shore, about 0.7 mile S of the light. These islets vary from 27 to 33m high, and with the exception of Inishgort, have clay cliffs on their seaward sides. Inishgort is connected to Island More to the N by drying ledges.

**Dillisk Rocks** (53°48'N., 9°42'W.) which dry, lie 1.2 miles WSW of Dorinish More and are marked on their S side by a perch. No vessel should attempt to pass between these rocks and Dorinish More or approach to within 0.5 mile of them. Patches with depths of 4.9 to 5.5m lie between Dillisk Rocks and the S shore. An 8.2m patch lies about 1.5 miles NW of the perch marking Dillisk Rocks with a 6.4m patch about midway between the two.

**Cloghormick Shoal** (53°51'N., 9°43'W.), with depths of 4 to 5.2m over its outer end, extends about 1.5 miles WSW from **Inishbee** (53°51'N., 9°40'W.). The shoal is marked by a buoy located 0.3 mile W of its outer end.

**Westport Bay** (53°48'N., 9°36'W.), a shallow, intricate inlet, is entered between Inishgort Light and Dorinish Bar, a drying rocky spit which extends N from Dorinish More to within 0.3 mile of the light. A lighted buoy is moored on the S side of the channel, about 0.2 mile SW of the light.

**Pilotage.**—A pilot will board from Inishgort at the entrance to the channel, or from Inishlyre, close inside, when the usual signals are displayed.



**Anchorage.**—Vessels with a draft of 7.3m can anchor in 8.5m about midway between Inishgort and Inishlyre to the SE. This anchorage is partially exposed and subject to some sea during the ebb. Inishlyre Harbour is preferred.

Inishlyre Harbour, on the E side of Inishlyre, is entered through a narrow channel between that island and Collan More to the NE. A 1.5m shoal in the middle of the entrance almost equally divides the harbor. The best anchorage lies in the E part of the harbor in 6.1m with the S extremity of **Rosmoney Hill** (53°49'N., 9°37'W.) bearing 114° and the SE extremity of Collan More bearing 043°. Vessels of too great a draft to proceed to Westport Quay usually discharge their cargo here.

Anchorage can be taken in 4.3m in Dorinish Harbour, S of Inishlyre, with Inishgort Light bearing 328° and Rosmoney Hill bearing 073°. The anchorage is easy of access with good holding ground, but is not available to vessels with a draft of more than 4.3m. Even vessels with this draft will ground with an exceptionally low tide.

**Directions.**—The S extremity of Inishgort Light in range 071° with the NE extremity of the fall of Collan More Hill will lead to the entrance of the channel leading to Westport in depths of more than 9m. The N point of Inishlyre in range 086° with the S extremity of Collan More leads through the channel between Inishgort and Dorinish Bar. When abeam of Inishgort Light, the track turns SE and the line of bearing 319°, astern, of the light leads into Dorinish Harbour between Dorinish Bar and Inishlyre. When the W extremity of Inishlaghan bears 173°, the track turns SSW to 204°, leading to the anchorage in the middle of the harbor.

**Westport Harbour** (53°48'N., 9°32'W.) is located on the S side of the channel. A quay, 928m in length, dries alongside. Small vessels with drafts of up to 3.1m can berth alongside at HWS.

**Newport Harbour** (53°53'N., 9°33'W.) is located about 7 miles up a narrow and intricate channel entered at Cloghcormick Buoy (53°51'N., 9°43'W.). A quay, which dries, is located at Newport and is mainly used by small fishing vessels; the quay has depths alongside of 3.7m at HWS.

**4.14 Achillbeg Island** (53°52'N., 9°57'W.) on the N side of the entrance to Clew Bay, consists of two peaks separated by a low isthmus which gives the island the appearance of two hills when viewed from a distance of 3 to 4 miles E or W. A light is shown from a tower on a square building, 9m high, standing at the S end of the island.

Achill Sound, which separates Achill Island from the mainland, is entered close N of Achillbeg Island. A fort, with a drying quay W of it, stands on Darby Point, the W entrance point of the sound.

The sound extends N for about 8 miles to the N entrance. It is spanned by a swing bridge about halfway along its length, and dries for a distance of 1 mile S of the bridge. When open there is a passage on each side of the bridge 13.7m wide. The E opening is preferred and has a depth of 2m at HW. The sound affords convenient passage from Clew Bay to Blacksod Bay, but due to overhead cables with a vertical clearance of 11m, situated at the bridge, it can only be used by small craft.

**Tides—Currents.**—In the S entrance of the sound, the flood current begins about 5 hours before HW at Galway and the ebb begins about 1 hour 30 minutes after HW at Galway. The spring velocity in both directions is 2.5 knots. A whirlpool forms in The Pool, W of the E entrance point in the S entrance, between 2 hours 30 minutes before HW until 2 hours 45 minutes after HW. Off Darby Point, the spring velocity increases to about 4 knots, but decreases to 2.5 knots about 0.5 mile farther N.

**Anchorage.**—In fine weather, small vessels with drafts up to 3m may anchor off a sandy bay on the E side of Achillbeg Island. However, in SW gales the sea breaks across the entrance to Achill Sound.

Small craft can anchor in 7.3 to 12m in The Pool between Achillbeg Island and Darby Point, but the currents are strong. Vessels should enter and leave only at slack water which occurs from about 15 minutes before HW until 15 minutes after HW.

**Directions.**—Leading lights situated on the quay, in line 330°, lead from Clew Bay through the S part of the entrance. When almost abeam of the E entrance point, course should be altered W to avoid the flat extending from the E side and the rock awash W of the point.

**Achill Island** (53°53'N., 9°58'W.), separated from the mainland E by Achill Sound, is the largest island off the Irish coast and rises to an elevation of 668m at Slievemore on its N side. A steep range of cliffs borders most of the W coast and terminates at Achill Head. Between the S extremity of the island and Achill Head, about 12 miles NW, the coast is indented by several small exposed bays. Temporary anchorage can be taken by small vessels in some of these bays.

**Achill Head** (53°58'N., 10°15'W.), a precipitous headland, rises to an elevation of 664m within 2 miles of its extremity. Carrickakin, 27m high, lies about 0.5 mile W of the W extremity. Shoals and rocks lie between the islet and the head.